supplied to Government hospitals in Pondicherry;

(b) if so, how many cases of adulteration, sub-standard medicines have been detected for the past three years in the Union Territory of Pondicherry from the pharmaceutical industries and chemists; and

(c) if so, how many cases have been filed and how many of them ended in conviction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, Pondicherry and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Seniority list of ticket checking staff in the North Eastern Railway

1114. SHRI LAXMI NARAIN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the North Eastern Railway, a combined seniority list of the ticket checking staff (mobile and stationary staff) used to be prepared upto 1982;

(b) whether it is a fact that from the year 1983 separate seniority lists of mobile and stationary staff are maintained and as a result thereof a large number of senior persons who were on the verge of promotion to the next higher grade, have been adversely affected;

(c) whether Government propose to direct the North Eastern Railway to revert to the *status quo ante* as per established practice prevalent in other Railway zones; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The avenue chart of promotion (AVC) for Ticket Checking Staff in vogue on North Eastern Railway from 1972, as amended in 1974, envisaged separate cadres of Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners upto the grade of Rs. 425—640 (Rs). Promotions to grades Rs. 550—750 (RS) and RS. 700—900 (RS) were made on the basis of combined seniority of employees in both the streams.

(b) to (d) The avenue chart for Ticket Checking Staff was revised by North Eastern Railway with effect from 1-12-1984 in consultation with their recognised Unions in terms of which there will be a combined cadre at all levels but persons who have already been promoted to higher grades on the basis of their options in terms of earlier avenue chart will be allowed to progress in their respective lines upto grade Rs. 700—900. The question whether the revised avenue chart has adversely affected the chances of a large number of employees who were on the verge of promotion on the basis of combined seniority is under examination.

Wagon repair unit in Shoranur in Kerala

1115. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to instal a wagon repair unit in Shoranur in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to utilise the huge area of land now lying idle due to the closure of the loco shed in Shoranur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Consequent on closure of the Steam Loco Shed at Shoranur due

to dieselisation, alternative activities of ROH of Wagons and Intermediate Overhauling as also corrosion repairs of Coaching Stock are being undertaken there to utilise the existing facilities and staff.

Luggage facility for season ticket holders

1116. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the season ticket holders on the railways are being deprived of the existing 10 kilogram luggage facility; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) To prevent leakage of railway revenue due to carrying of unbooked luggage, with effect from 1-2-1986, four zonal railways introduced luggage monthly season tickets which permitted luggage upto sixty kgs to be carried by a passenger. The monthly season ticket holders, who did not purchase the luggage season tickets, were not permitted to carry any luggage free except one hand bag, one umbrella and a tiffin box. The matter was, however, reconsidered, and a decision was taken to permit 10 kgs. of luggage in II class and 15 kgs. in I class.

Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval Line

1117. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation dated the 16th March, 1982 from the President Junagadh Grain, Seeds and Sugar Manufacturing Associatoin for the conversion of the Rajkot/Veraval metre gauge line to broad gauge line;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has referred the matter to Secretary, Railway Board on 3rd April, 1982 for a survey of the proposal;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the action taken thereon; and

(d) what are the details of the survey reports and by when the above line is likely to be converted from metre gauge to broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) Representations have been received from various organisations for the conversion of Rajkot-Veraval line into B.G.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Gujarat requested for examination of the proposal for extension of Broad Gauge line from Rajkot to Veraval. They were replied in June, 1982 that considering the level of traffic on this MG section, it was not possible to consider its conversion into BG.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Direct flight from Delhi to Ahmedabad

1118. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one morning flight between Ahmedabad and Delhi and no direct evening flight;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a strong demand from various sectors in Gujarat for direct evening flights on this route; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?